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ILLUMINA, INC. AND
ILLUMINA CAMBRIDGE LTD.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

ILLUMINA, INC. and
ILLUMINA CAMBRIDGE LTD.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BGI GENOMICS CO., LTD.,
BGI AMERICAS CORP.,
MGI TECH CO., LTD.,
MGI AMERICAS, INC., and
COMPLETE GENOMICS INC.,

Defendants.

COMPLETE GENOMICS INC.,
Counterclaim-Plaintiff,

v.

ILLUMINA, INC., and
ILLUMINA CAMBRIDGE LTD.,
Counterclaim-Defendants.

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Case No. 3:19-cv-03770-WHO
Case No. 3:20-cv-01465-WHO

**PLAINTIFFS' REPLY TO DEFENDANTS'
RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' POSITION
ON DISPUTES CONCERNING
DEPOSITION DESIGNATIONS OF
WITNESSES BGI PLANS TO CALL**

Judge William H. Orrick

1 Plaintiffs Illumina, Inc. and Illumina Cambridge Ltd. submit this short reply to Defendants
2 response regarding the disputes concerning deposition designations of the witnesses BGI plans to call
3 to assist the Court in resolving those objections.

4
5 1. Defendants cannot deny their blatant violation of the Court's Order on MIL No. 2. They insist
6 on maintaining designations that explicitly accuse the inventors of copying Zavgorodny. They have
7 no credible explanation for this. This confirms that they intend to do precisely what the Court has
8 forbidden, and underscores the potential for mischief when their other designations are used to
9 insinuate in more subtle ways that the inventors relied upon Zavgorodny.

10 2. BGI's argument that "Dr. Milton was testifying about what steps a POSA would have found
11 readily apparent at the time" is wrong. Dkt. No. 500 at 4. His testimony explicitly refers to what "we"
12 (*i.e.*, the "chemistry department" at Solexa, including the inventors) "figured out" and "realize[d]"
13 along the path to the invention. Milton Tr. at 28:2-29:2; 103:12-23. As this Court recognized in its
14 order on MIL No. 2, this type of retracing the path of the inventors is inadmissible hindsight. BGI's
15 argument that Dr. Milton's use of the word "obvious" was not "directed to the ultimate legal issue of
16 obviousness" is contrary to how BGI's counsel characterized it to this Court during the pretrial
17 conference. Dkt. No. 474 at 76:10-11 ("... we have inventors that said it was obvious"). All of this
18 underscores how severely prejudicial and misleading this testimony would be if presented to the jury,
19 and why Illumina's objection to it should be sustained under this Court's Order on MIL No. 2 and
20 Rule 403.
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22 3. The sole case cited by BGI is inapposite. In *Neupak*, the trial court considered the inventors'
23 testimony in the course of finding that the invention was not obvious. *Neupak, Inc. v. Ideal Mfg. &*
24 *Sales Corp.*, 41 F. App'x 435, 437 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Unlike in this case, the Defendant in *Neupak* did
25 not try to use the inventors' testimony to retrace the path of the inventors to show obviousness.
26 Further, the *Neupak* case involved a bench trial, so it did not present the risk of unfair prejudice and
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1 jury confusion that would arise here. *Id.* The court noted that there was “no indication that the trial
 2 court misunderstood the proper legal standard or gave the inventors’ testimony undue weight.” *Id.* at
 3 440.

4 4. Defendants’ argument that the testimony “shows the state of the art” (Dkt. No. 500 at 2) prior
 5 to the invention is wrong and highlights the highly prejudicial and misleading way in which BGI
 6 plans to use the testimony at trial. For example, Dr. Liu’s testimony about whether the chemistry was
 7 “interesting” was made with hindsight from the inventors’ perspective after the invention had been
 8 made. As this Court recognized in its Order on MIL No. 2, this does not show that one of ordinary
 9 skill in the art would have found it interesting without the benefit of impermissible hindsight. BGI’s
 10 stated plan to use the inventors’ hindsight as supposed evidence of “the state to the art” prior to the
 11 invention to show that an ordinary skilled artisan (as opposed to an inventor) “would have looked to
 12 the Zavgorodny and Kovacs references” and “would be motivated to combine such references” (Dkt.
 13 No. 500 at 3) underscores why Illumina’s objection should be sustained under Rule 403 and MIL No.
 14 2.
 15

16 5. BGI omits the preceding context from Dr. Brennan’s testimony in which he was asked to
 17 retrace the path of the Solexa inventors as BGI questioned him about Zavgorodny. BGI omits that it
 18 asked Dr. Brennan “And eventually the way that Solexa determined that it was going to take the
 19 azidomethyl – the 3’-O-azidomethyl block off the nucleotide was ...” before the very next question
 20 cited by BGI, which begins “And then it was known that ...” Brennan Tr. 82:20-83:15. This
 21 questioning was about what the Solexa inventors knew after they had made the invention, not how an
 22 ordinary artisan would have thought about Zavgorodny without impermissible hindsight.
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24 6. Similarly, BGI’s questioning of Dr. Liu about what he as an inventor would do in a
 25 hypothetical situation (“Q. So if you saw a reference ... would that lead you to think that maybe you
 26 should try ...”) both improperly retraces the path of the inventors almost twenty years after the
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1 invention was made and runs afoul of Rule 701 for seeking expert testimony about a hypothetical
2 from a lay witness.

3 7. BGI's argument that it can ask leading questions of Dr. Milton simply because he was an
4 employee of Solexa fifteen years ago is misguided. Dr. Milton has been an officer at a "rival" of
5 Illumina for over a decade. He is not identified with Illumina under Fed. R. Evid. 611 (c)(2), and
6 Illumina's objections based on leading should be sustained.

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8 8. BGI's claim that Dr. Brennan was "merely asked to describe his alleged invention" is
9 untrue. Dkt. No. 500 at 4. The testimony shows that BGI's counsel repeatedly badgered him to
10 provide an impromptu validity analysis involving a comparison of a patent claim to a prior art
11 reference that he was unfamiliar with. BGI cites no authority to justify this, and this testimony is
12 inadmissible under Rule 701 and Rule 403. Further, BGI's plan to misconstrue this testimony to
13 contend that it is an admission that there is no difference between the invention and Zavgorodny is
14 highly prejudicial and contrary to this Court's summary judgment ruling that there is no anticipation
15 of any asserted claim. Dkt. No. 424 at 25.

16
17 9. BGI does not deny that the alleged "attribution" to Zavgorodny in the Jena brochure is
18 inadmissible hearsay. Dkt. No. 500 at 5. Given Jena's role as BGI's recent supplier of the
19 azidomethyl nucleotides after this litigation began, the curious attribution is anything but
20 trustworthy. Illumina's objection should be sustained.
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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Douglas W. McClellan

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